

BECKHAM MUST RETURN--COURT

T-P 1/31/68
Evangelist: Ordered to Come Here to Testify

Thomas Edward Beckham, the entertainer-evangelist sought for questioning by District Attorney Jim Garrison Tuesday, was ordered to return to New Orleans to testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Garrison wants to question the 27-year-old Beckham in his probe of an alleged assassination conspiracy resulting in the death of President John F. Kennedy.

The action came in district court in Omaha, Nebr., after Beckham was arrested for failing to appear for a hearing.

Meanwhile, Eugene Davis, a bar owner whose name was mentioned prominently in connection with the probe, was arrested in New Orleans and booked with obscenity involving a 16-year-old boy.

GIVEN CONTINUANCE

Beckham had been ordered to appear in the Nebraska district court to show cause why he should not go to New Orleans. On Monday he was given a one-day continuance after being slightly injured in a traffic accident at Sioux City, Iowa, Saturday.

When he failed to appear Tuesday and could not be reached by his attorney, he was cited for contempt by Judge James P. O'Brien.

Beckham's attorney, John Slo-

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ma, said Beckham was seriously ill as a result of the accident. He was treated at an Omaha hospital but dismissed late Monday afternoon.

Davis was arrested at his residence at 522 Dauphine by Detectives Daniel McMullen and Marcel David after the juvenile called police.

Officers quoted the boy as saying he met Davis at Royal and Iberville and Davis offered him a "chance to make some money."

The youth told police he accompanied Davis to his home and was ordered by the man to remove his clothing.

The boy refused, officers said, and Davis locked him inside while he went to the other side of the double house. During Davis' absence, the boy was able to break open the door and flee, police said.

LED TO RESIDENCE

McMullen and David said they found the boy out of breath at the head of Canal st. near the ferry landing, from where he had called police. The boy led them to the residence at 522 Dauphine, where they arrested

Davis about 3:10 p. m., the officers said.

Davis was sent to Central Lockup for booking on charges of obscenity and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. Police listed his age as 43.

Davis' name was mentioned in the probe last summer by Dean A. Andrews Jr., the Jefferson Parish attorney who told the Warren Commission that a "Clay Bertrand" contacted him after the assassination of President Kennedy. Andrews later identified Davis as Bertrand and said Bertrand asked him to defend Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission said Oswald, alone, assassinated the President.

Garrison later arrested New Orleans businessman Clay L. Shaw and charged him with participating in a conspiracy to murder the President. A witness, testifying during Shaw's preliminary hearing, said he attended a meeting at which the assassination was discussed. He said Shaw attended the sid

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meeting and used the name "Clem Bertrand."

Andrews has since been found guilty of perjury in Criminal District Court here, and Davis

denied that he was Clay Bertrand.

Shaw has also issued a denial

that he participated in any conspiracy or ever used the name Bertrand.